

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 OMB-01 AID-05 /069 W

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R 201331Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ASMARA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 15113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ET, US

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF THE DIRG'S INTENTIONS

1. TWO WELL PLACED SOURCES SOUGHT TO REASSURE US YESTERDAY REGARDING THE PRESENT INTENTIONS OF THE DIRG WITH REGARD TO THE ACQUISITION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND THE MODERATION OF ITS POLICIES.

2. SOME TIME AGO I HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO MOFA VICE MINISTER AYELE MOLTOTAL REGARDING REPORTS ALLEGING THAT THE DIRG WAS ABOUT TO SWITCH TO THE SOVIET UNION AS ITS PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIER AND TO REORIENT ITS FOREIGN POLICY ACCORDINGLY. AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION LAST NIGHT AYELE REVERTED TO THIS CONVERSATION AND SAID HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH A VERY INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE DIRG. THIS INDIVIDUAL HAD THEN AUTHORIZED HIM TO TELL ME THAT THE DIRG HAS NO INTENTION WHATSOEVER OF SWITCHING TO THE SOVIET UNION AS AN ARMS SUPPLIER UNLESS THE US FAILS TO PROVIDE ETHIOPIA WITH ITS MILITARY DEFENSE NEEDS. AYELE ASSURED ME

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THAT THE DIRG MEMBER HAD BEEN EXPRESSING THE VIEWS OF THE DIRG AS

A WHOLE RATHER THAN MERELY PERSONAL VIEWS. AYELE ALSO VOLUNTEER-  
ED THAT DIRG MEMBERS DO NOT WISH TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH FOREIGN  
DIPLOMATS BUT THAT THE EMBASSY CAN EASILY EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH  
THE DIRG THROUGH THE NEW MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AYELE MANDEFRO.

3. YESTERDAY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE CALLED IN NUMEROUS MILITARY  
ATTACHES, INCLUDING THE THREE AMERICAN ATTACHES, FOR INITIAL CON-  
VERSATIONS. HE EMPHASIZED TO OUR GROUP THAT HIS GOVERNMENT  
DESIRES FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE USG AND THAT HE DESIRES TO  
MAINTAIN THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR  
ATTACHES AND WITH MAAG WHICH HIS PREDECESSORS HAVE ENJOYED. OF  
PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS HIS STATEMENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN MUCH  
SPECULATION REGARDING THE BASIC POLICIES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT BUT  
THAT WE COULD BE CONFIDENT THAT ITS BASIC POLICIES WOULD BE  
"MODERATE". THE SUBJECT OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS NOT MEN-  
TIONED IN THE CONVERSATION.

4. THESE EFFORTS TO REASSURE US OF THE DIRG'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN  
CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US STAND IN SHARP CONTRAST  
TO THE RECENT CONSPICUOUS REPLACEMENT OF USIS MATERIALS IN THE  
PRESS BY ARTICLES DISCUSSING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION,  
CHINA, CUBA, AND YUGOSLAVIA.  
WYMAN

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